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- 1843-44. Optics.
- 1845-46. Astronomy.
- 1853-54. Electricity and Magnetism.
- 1859-60. Astronomy.
- 1865-66. Light and Sound.
- 1879-80. Connection of the Physical Sciences.

GEORGE HINCKLEY LYMAN.

DR. GEORGE HINCKLEY LYMAN, Resident Fellow of the Academy, was born in Northampton, Mass., July 17, 1819, the son of Jonathan Huntington and Sophia (Hinckley) Lyman. He was educated at the famous Round Hill School in Northampton; but on account of ill health he was obliged to pass several years in Ohio and other Western States before beginning his professional studies in the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, where he took his degree of M. D. in 1843. Wishing to qualify himself thoroughly for the practice of his profession, he devoted more than the usual time to advanced study and clinical observation in the great hospitals of Europe, before returning to establish himself in Boston. Here he at once attracted attention through the publication of two Essays, — on “Non-Malignant Diseases of the Uterus,” and on the “History and Statistics of Ovariectomy,” — which had gained prizes offered by Medical Societies as being valuable contributions to the knowledge of the profession, and marked by the wise discrimination and candor shown in the discussion of their subjects, to which was added the charm of clearness and elegance of style.

The early promise thus given of Dr. Lyman’s career was amply fulfilled. His thorough training, quickness of observation, and good judgment, with his faithful ministrations and ready sympathy, invited and retained the confidence of his patients of high or low degree.

But his success as a physician did not make him heedless of the claims of his country. At the outbreak of the Civil War, in 1861, he volunteered his services to Governor Andrew of Massachusetts, and, in co-operation with Surgeon General Dale, became his efficient adviser in the organization of a suitable surgical and ambulance service for the departing troops. Nor did he linger in the rear. As these went to the front, he went to share their dangers and alleviate their sufferings.

Standing first on the list of candidates examined by the Medical Army Board of Washington, he outranked during the war all the appointees from civil life. He was soon assigned as Medical Director of

the Division commanded by General Fitz John Porter, and afterward of the entire Fifth Corps, comprising twenty-six thousand men. Prostrated for a time by the severe fatigues and exposures ensuing after the exhausting marches and sanguinary battles at Gaines's Mill and elsewhere, Dr. Lyman was upon his recovery appointed one of six Medical Inspectors of the Army, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and ordered to inspect the great hospitals at Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. Next he was given supervision of the Medical Department which included Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Ohio, and as far southward as our army lines extended; finding in Nashville and some other large cities the churches, warehouses and many dwellings overflowing with the wounded. Afterwards he travelled more than three thousand miles by rail through the Department of the East, to investigate alleged hospital abuses; and was then transferred to the Department of the South, to inspect the hospitals, and to await the arrival of Sherman's army on its march to the sea, and report on its sanitary condition.

In the important positions he held on the Army surgical staff, Dr. Lyman worked indefatigably to organize and to improve the supply, ambulance, and hospital services.

At the close of the war, Dr. Lyman by no means reposed on his laurels, but returned with fresh zeal to his home life and professional work. In addition to his private practice, he filled until his decease the post of Visiting Physician to the Boston City Hospital, where his wide experience, his devotion to the patients under his charge, and his courteous relations with his colleagues of the staff, caused his loss to be deeply felt.

In 1875 Dr. Lyman delivered the Annual Oration before the Massachusetts Medical Society, on "The Interests of the Public and of the Medical Profession"; in 1870 he was its Anniversary Chairman; and in 1879-80 he received the highest honors in the gift of the profession, in his election for the two years as President of the Society, where his administrative talent, and his tact, dignity, and courtesy as a presiding officer did much to promote its interests.

Dr. Lyman was one of the founders and officers of the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society, instituted to aid such worthy members of the profession, or their families, as had through illness or misfortune fallen into distress. He was also one of the founders of the American Gynecological Society, and an active member of the Boston Obstetrical Society, of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, of the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts, and of the Military Order

of the Loyal Legion of the United States. He was an Honorary Member of the Harvard Medical School Association, and for many years was vestryman of St. Paul's Church.

In the various societies for medical improvement of which Dr. Lyman was an honored, an active, and an interested member, his qualities as an original thinker and accurate observer, and his large experience, to which was added much aptness and conciseness in debate, gave weight to every expression of his opinions.

In his visits abroad during nearly a half-century of professional life Dr. Lyman had made the acquaintance of many medical and scientific men of celebrity; and he delighted in extending to some of these, visiting this country, his graceful welcome and hospitalities, to which his own cultivated taste in matters of literature and art gave additional charm.

Dr. Lyman was in no respect a passive man. Of active temperament, quick and independent in thought and deed, earnest in convictions, unchanging in friendships, with a high sense of honor, he was always ready to promote a good work, but impatient of wilful negligence or imposture. His busy career compelled him to limit his attention to matters more or less germane to his profession, rather than to undertake elaborate and minute scientific researches; but he solaced the intervals of a laborious professional life with literary enjoyments and when at times he contributed something for publication it was notable for clearness and elegance of diction, and bore the stamp of trustworthiness.

Dr. Lyman married, first, October 14, 1846, Maria Cornelia Ritchie, daughter of James T. Austin; she died in 1864, leaving two sons and two daughters. He married, second, February 13, 1879, Henrietta, daughter of Samuel T. Dana, who survives him.

Having gone abroad in the spring of 1890, Dr. and Mrs. Lyman passed the ensuing winter in Italy, and the summer in Switzerland and Paris. On reaching London in August, Dr. Lyman had an attack of facial erysipelas, from which he had four times previously suffered, and which ten years previously had been complicated with a deep-seated orbital abscess causing loss of vision in one eye. The same conditions now recurred, and were combined with embolism of the femoral artery. He early became unconscious, and died on the 19th of August, 1891. His interment took place at Mount Auburn, on the 2d of September.